

“O How Love I Thy Law!”
The Fifth Commandment
“Honor”
Exodus 20:12

Introduction:

1. Please Turn Back With Me In Your Bibles Tonight:
 - To The Book Of Exodus:
 - Where We, Once Again:
 - Come To The Ten Commandments:
 - Which Reveals To Us The Moral Law Of God!
 - Our Focus:
 - For The Last Month:
 - Has Been The Fifth Commandment:
 - Which We Find In:
 - 20:12 - Where God Says - “Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee!”
2. Now - As We’ve Been Exploring:
 - The Ten Commandments This Year - On Sunday Nights:
 - We Have Been Using A Verse From The New Testament:
 - As Our Guide!
 - 2 Timothy 3:16 - Which Tells Us That:
 - “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness!”
 - Now - Even Though All Throughout Church History:
 - And Even Until Today:
 - There Have Been Some Who Say:
 - The Old Testament / Mosaic Law:
 - Has No More Relevance To The New Testament Church!
 - They Are Known As “Antinomians!”
 - Yet, When Paul Wrote:
 - “All Scripture” - He Would Have Certainly Meant To Include:
 - The Ten Commandments!
 - Because They Too Remain Profitable To The Church In All Of The Ways He Mentions!
 - 3. The Commandments:
 - Are Profitable For Doctrine:
 - Because They Each Tell Us & Teach Us Something:
 - About God And His Nature!
 - So - Just To Review:
 - The First Commandment:
 - Tells Us That:
 - God Is The Only God! The Only True And Living God!
 - And That Is Why He Says:
 - 20:3 - “Thou shalt have no other gods before me!”
 - God Is The Only God!
 - The Second Commandment:
 - Tells Us That:
 - God Is A Spirit And Is The Creator Of Everything! Everything Around Us & Even Everything Above Us!
 - And That Is Why He Says:
 - 20:4-6 - “Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: / Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; / And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments!”
 - God Is A Spiritual God!
 - The Third Commandment:

- Tells Us That:
 - God Is A Personal God And Graciously Reveals Himself To Us Through His Personal Name As Well As His Other Descriptive Names!
- And That Is Why He Says:
 - 20:7 - “Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain!”
 - God Is A Personal God!
- The Fourth Commandment:
 - Tells Us That:
 - God Is A God Of Rest And Graciously Offers His Rest To Us!
 - And That Is Why He Says:
 - 20:8-11 - “Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy! Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: / But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: / For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it!”
 - God Is A Restful God!
- And - The Fifth Commandment:
 - Tells Us That:
 - God Is A Paternal God!
 - That Is - He Has The Heart Of A Father:
 - As Well As - A Heart For The Family!
 - And That Is Why He Says:
 - 20:12 - “Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee!”
 - God Is A Paternal God!
 - Of Course - These Truths & Doctrines:
 - Are Backed Up & Illustrated By:
 - Other Passages In The Bible!
 - But - There Is Much We Can Learn About God And His Nature:
 - Through His Commandments!
 - They Reveal Him To Us Because They Reflect His Very Nature!
 - And - All Of His Commandments:
 - Are Profitable For Doctrine!
- 4. But - The Commandments Don't Stop There!
 - They Are Also Profitable – As Part Of Scripture:
 - For Reproof:
 - Because They Each Tell Us & Teach Us:
 - Something About Ourselves!
 - The Commandments:
 - Can Take One Of Two Forms!
 - They Can Either:
 - Tell Us What We:
 - **Must Do!** Or:
 - They Can Tell Us:
 - What We:
 - **Must Not Do!**
 - But - Either Way:
 - When We Honestly Weigh Ourselves:
 - With The Standard Of God's Moral Law:
 - We Are Found Wanting!
 - If The Commandments Of God:
 - Reveal To Us The Glory Of His Nature:
 - They Also Reveal That:
 - As Romans 3:23 Says - We “All Have Sinned, And Come Short Of The Glory Of God!”
 - When You **Forget:**

- The Commandments Of God:
 - You Commit The Sin:
 - Of **O**mission!
- When You **Forsake**:
 - The Commandments Of God:
 - You Commit The Sin:
 - Of **C**ommission!
- But - Either Way:
 - You Still Sin:
 - And Fall Far, Far Short:
 - Of God's Glorious Nature!
- And So - All Of His Commandments:
 - Remain Profitable For Reproof!
 - And This Is In Line With What:
 - The Apostle Paul Tells Us About The Law In Romans 3:20:
 - "By the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: **for by the law is the knowledge of sin!**"
 - God Designed His Law:
 - To Reprove Us & To Reveal To Us:
 - Not Only The Sinfulness:
 - Of Our Selves - But Also:
 - The Exceeding Sinfulness Of Sin **Itself!**
- 5. But - Praise God - The Commandments Don't Stop There Either!
 - Because - According To 2 Timothy 3:16:
 - As Part Of Scripture - They Are Also Profitable:
 - For Correction!
 - And The Correction We Need:
 - Is A Correction We Cannot Perform, In And Of Ourselves!
 - **IE:** Sin Is Not Like A Mistake That You Can Erase And Just Start Over, Like A Homework Assignment!
 - We Need Someone Else:
 - To **Correct** Us & To **Help** Us:
 - And, Most Importantly, To **Change** Us!
 - And The Correction:
 - God Has Provided To Us & For Us:
 - Is His Only Begotten Son:
 - The Lord Jesus Christ!
 - Who Came:
 - Not Only To **Die** For Us:
 - But Also - To **Live** For Us:
 - And To "Fulfill All Righteousness!" (Matthew 3:15)
 - And So - When Jesus Was On This Earth:
 - According To Hebrews 4:15:
 - He Was - "In All Points Tempted Like We Are, Yet Without Sin!"
 - In Spite Of What The World Thinks About Jesus:
 - Without A Perfect & A Pure Sacrifice For Sin:
 - There Can Never Be:
 - A Cure And A Correction:
 - For Our Sin Problem!
 - And So - In All Points:
 - Of The Ten Commandments Themselves:
 - Jesus Obeyed Them & Fulfilled Them:
 - Perfectly!
 - And That Is Why:
 - Paul Writes In Galatians 3:24:
 - "Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith!"
 - And So - All Of His Commandments:

- Remain Profitable For Correction!
 - Because They Keep Pointing Us:
 - To Jesus Christ!
 - To Our *Need* For Him:
 - And His Righteousness!
 - As Well As The *Provision* Of Him:
 - And His Righteousness!
 - And When You Turn To:
 - Jesus - And Trust In Him:
 - To Be Your Savior:
 - God's Law Takes On A Whole New Light!
6. Because - The Ten Commandments:
- According To 2 Timothy 3:16:
 - Are Also Profitable For:
 - "Instruction In Righteousness!"
 - That Is - They Tell Us Something:
 - About The Will And Good Pleasure Of God!
 - Remember What Jesus Said:
 - In John 14:15?
 - "If Ye Love Me, Keep My Commandments!"
 - And The Apostle John Writes:
 - In 1 John 5:3 - "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous!"
 - That Is - They Are Not Too Heavy & Burdensome!
 - In Fact - For The Christian:
 - They Can & Should Become:
 - Our Delight!
 - Even As We Find In The Theme Verse For Our Series:
 - Psalm 119:97 - "O How Love I Thy Law! It Is My Meditation All The Day!"
 - So Now - When You Look At The Ten Commandments:
 - You Can See Them In Terms Of:
 - What You *Can* Do:
 - For The Lord - Not Just:
 - What You *Can't*!
 - And That Is Why:
 - The Ten Commandments:
 - Remain Profitable For Instruction In Righteousness!
 - They Teach Us How We Can Live For The Lord And For Others:
 - From A Changed Heart Of Love!
7. And This Is What:
- The Fifth Commandment Tells Us As Well!
 - In Exodus 20:12 - God Says:
 - "Honor Thy Father And Thy Mother!"
 - And To "Honor" Is:
 - An Important Instruction In Righteousness!
 - This Is God's Will!
 - Because - To "Honor" Is:
 - How We Are To Relate To Both:
 - Our Heavenly Father:
 - As Well As Our Earthly Parents!
 - "Honor!"
8. The Word "Honor" Comes From:
- A Hebrew Root - Kabod:
 - That, In Its Most Basic & Literal Meaning:
 - Is Used Of Something:
 - That Is Heavy!
 - That Has Some Mass & Weight!

- Just One Example Can Be Found:
 - In The Book Of 1 Samuel!
 - Remember The Priest Who Saw Hannah Praying In The Temple For A Son?
- What Was His Name? Eli!
 - Well, We Have A Description Of Eli Just Before He Died In 1 Samuel 4:18 - "And it came to pass, when he made mention of the ark of God, that he fell from off the seat backward by the side of the gate, and his neck brake, and he died: for he was an old man, and **heavy**. And he had judged Israel forty years!"
 - Eli Was A Big & "Heavy" Man!
 - And The Hebrew Word For "Heavy":
 - Is Kabed!
 - And It Described Eli The Priest!
- But This Word:
 - As A Verb - Is Also Frequently Used:
 - For "Honor" - As It Does:
 - In Exodus 20:12!
 - So - "Honor" Can Be Thought Of:
 - As A Picture Word - That Can Help Us:
 - Better Understand How We Are To Relate To God, Our Parents, And All Of The Other Authorities God Has Placed In Our Lives!
 - We Are To Regard Them & Respond To Them:
 - According To Their:
 - "Weightiness" In Our Lives!

9. So - What Does It Mean:
- To "Honor" Our Fathers & Our Mothers?
 - As An "Instruction In Righteousness"?
 - It Means & It Includes:

1. A Proper Sentiment!

- And - A Proper Feeling - Toward Them!
 - To Not Only **See** Them As Weighty & Honorable:
 - In Your Life:
 - But To **Feel** This Way About Them!
 - To **Dishonor** One's Parents:
 - In The Old Testament Was A Very Serious Thing!
 - In Deuteronomy 21:18-21 - The Children Of Israel Were Told That:
 - "If a man have a stubborn and rebellious son, which will not obey the voice of his father, or the voice of his mother, and that, when they have chastened him, will not hearken unto them: / Then shall his father and his mother lay hold on him, and bring him out unto the elders of his city, and unto the gate of his place; / And they shall say unto the elders of his city, This our son is stubborn and rebellious, he will not obey our voice; he is a glutton, and a drunkard. / And all the men of his city shall stone him with stones, that he die: so shalt thou put evil away from among you; and all Israel shall hear, and fear!"
 - The Son Referred To In These Verses:
 - Clearly Did Not Give His Parents:
 - Nor God - The Weight & The Honor They Were Due:
 - In His Heart & Life!
 - And So:
 - He Did Not Obey Them:
 - Nor Did He Listen:
 - To Them!
 - And - How Is This Son Described:
 - In 21:21? As:
 - "Evil!"
- You Need To Have:
 - The Right Sentiment:
 - Toward All The Authorities God Has Placed In Your Life - But Especially:
 - Your Father & Your Mother!

- As Well As Your Heavenly Father!
- And This Sentiment:
 - Will Be Expressed In:
 - Your Love For Them:
 - As Well As Your Listening To Them!
- And - This Sentiment:
 - Is To Be A Life-Long Sentiment!
 - Even Though The Dynamic In Your Relationship To Your Parents Will Necessarily Change Over Time:
 - Yet, This Sentiment & Feeling & Honor Should Always Be There & Even Grow!
- So - “Honor Thy Father And Thy Mother!”
 - To “Honor” Also Means & Includes:

2. *A Proper Submission!*

- And - A Proper Obedience - To Them!
 - This Especially Applies To:
 - Younger Children And Children Who Remain:
 - In The Homes Of Their Parents!
 - In Ephesians 6:1-3:
 - The Apostle Paul Refers To The Fifth Commandment:
 - When He Writes - “Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. / Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) / That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth!”
 - In His Comments On These Verses:
 - John Wesley Once Wrote:
 - To Obey Means To - “Come When They Call You, Go Where They Send You, Do What They Bid You, Do Not What They Forbid You; And This Cheerfully, And From A Principle Of Love!”
 - What A Good Definition Of Submission And Obedience!
 - Not Only Is This:
 - The Kind Of Obedience:
 - That Children Are Called To! But:
 - This Is Also The Kind Of Obedience:
 - That Parents Are To Teach Their Children!
 - But - As Children Are To:
 - **Obey** “In The Lord” - So:
 - Parents Are To **Teach** Them “In The Lord!”
 - Because - We Often Forget:
 - That In The Very Next Verse, We Read:
 - Ephesians 6:4 - “And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord!”
 - So - As The Commandments Of The Lord:
 - Are Not “Grievous” To Us - Neither Should:
 - The Demands & Commands:
 - Of Parents Be:
 - To Their Children!
 - So - “Honor Thy Father And Thy Mother!”
 - To “Honor” Also Means & Includes:

3. *A Proper Support!*

- In 1 Timothy 5 - The Apostle Paul:
 - Is Writing To Timothy:
 - About How To Handle:
 - Some Of The Relationships That Are Within The Church!
 - In 5:1-4 - He Writes:
 - “Rebuke not an elder, but intreat him as a father; and the younger men as brethren; / The elder women as mothers; the younger as sisters, with all purity. / Honour widows that are widows

indeed. / But if any widow have children or nephews, let them learn first to shew piety at home, and to requite their parents: for that is good and acceptable before God!"

- So - Not Only Do We Find In These Verses:
 - That The Sentiment & Feeling:
 - Of "Honor" Extends Within The Church:
 - Even To "Elder Men" & "Elder Women!"
- But - We Also Find:
 - The Responsibility Of Christian Children:
 - To Support Their Parents:
 - In Their Old Age!
 - In 5:4 - This Responsibility:
 - Extends - Not Only To The Children:
 - But - Even To The Grand-Children - Which In King James:
 - Is Translated As "Nephews!"
- So - As Adult Children:
 - You Can Honor Your Parents & Even Your Grand-Parents:
 - Not Only By:
 - Looking *To* Them:
 - For Their Advice And Direction And Counsel!
 - But Also By:
 - Looking *After* Them:
 - And Their Needs:
 - As They Grow Older!

Conclusion:

1. So - "Honor Thy Father And Thy Mother!"
 - There Is Much More:
 - That Can Be Added To:
 - What It Means:
 - To "Honor" Them!
 - In Fact:
 - When Love Is The Basis:
 - Of Your Honor:
 - Then How You Follow This Commandment:
 - Knows No Bounds!
 - You Can Never:
 - Honor Your Earthly Parents:
 - Too Much! And:
 - You Can Never:
 - Honor The Lord – Your Heavenly Father:
 - Too Far!
2. So - "Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee!" (Exodus 20:12)

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